# BEFORE THE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In	the	Matter	of the	Accusation	Against:
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Case No. W 233

TERRY LEE ARGAST, PH.D. 30011 Ivy Glenn, Ste. 205 Laguna Niguel, California 92677 OAH No. L-2002080174

Psychologist License No. PSY 4396

Respondent.

## **DECISION AND ORDER**

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the Board of Psychology, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.

This Decision shall become effective on March 3, 2004

It is so ORDERED February 2, 2004

FOR THE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS WILLIAM LEW TAN, PRESIDENT

1	BILL LOCKYER, Attorney General	100 mg/mm 100 mg				
2	of the State of California CINDY M. LOPEZ, State Bar No. 190583					
3	Deputy Attorney General California Department of Justice					
4	300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013	•				
5	Telephone: (213) 897-7373 Facsimile: (213) 897-9395					
6	Attorneys for Complainant					
7	BEFORE THE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS					
8						
9	STATE OF CAL	IFORNIA				
10	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. W 233				
11	TERRY LEE ARGAST, PH.D.	OAH No. L-2002080174				
12	30011 Ivy Glenn, Ste. 205 Laguna Niguel, California 92677	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND				
13	Psychologist License No. PSY 4396	DISCIPLINARY ORDER				
14	Respondent.					
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16	IT IS HEDEDV STIDI II ATED AND	ACDEED by and between the manifest at				
17	above-entitled proceedings that the following matter	AGREED by and between the parties to the				
18	above-children proceedings that the following matter	s are true:				
19	DADTIE	· c				
20	PARTIES  1. Thomas S. OlCannau (Complained) is the French in OCC. S. O. D 1					
21	1. Thomas S. O'Connor (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of the Board					
22	of Psychology. He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this matter by Bill Lockyer, Attorney General of the State of California, by Cindy M. Lopez, Deputy					
23	Attorney General.	e of Camorina, by Cindy M. Lopez, Deputy				
24		Dh D (Dogwondont) is nonnegated in this				
25	proceeding by attorney O. Brandt Caudill, Jr., whose	, Ph.D. (Respondent) is represented in this				
26	WILLIS LLP, 111 Fashion Lane, Tustin, California					
27						
28	3. On or about July 14, 19/5, the	e Board of Psychology issued Psychologist				

and he agrees to be bound by the Board's imposition of discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary

## **CONTINGENCY**

- Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board of Psychology may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 11. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 12. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

# **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Psychologist License No. PSY 4396 issued to Respondent Terry Lee Argast, Ph.D. is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for seven (7) years on the following terms and conditions.

- 1. <u>ACTUAL SUSPENSION</u> As part of probation, respondent is suspended from the practice of psychology for 180 days beginning with the effective date of this Decision. During the suspension, any probation period is tolled and will not commence again until the suspension is completed.
- 2. <u>PRACTICE MONITOR</u> Within 180 days of the effective date of this Decision, respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee for prior approval, the name and

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qualifications of a psychologist who has agreed to serve as a practice monitor/billing monitor. The monitor shall 1) be a California-licensed psychologist with a clear and current license; 2) have no prior business, professional, personal or other relationship with respondent; and 3) not be the same person as respondent's therapist. The monitor's education and experience shall be in the same field of practice as that of the respondent.

Once approved, the monitor shall submit to the Board or its designee a plan by which respondent's practice shall be monitored. Monitoring shall consist of a least one hour per week of individual face to face meetings and shall continue during the entire probationary period. The respondent shall provide the monitor with a copy of this Decision and access to respondent's fiscal and/or patient records. Respondent shall obtain any necessary patient releases to enable the monitor to review records and to make direct contact with patients. Respondent shall execute a release authorizing the monitor to divulge any information that the Board may request. It shall be respondent's responsibility to assure that the monitor submits written reports to the Board or its designee on a quarterly basis verifying that monitoring has taken place and providing an evaluation of respondent's performance.

Respondent shall notify all current and potential patients of any term or condition of probation which will affect their therapy or the confidentiality of their records (such as this condition which requires a practice monitor/billing monitor). Such notifications shall be signed by each patient prior to continuing or commencing treatment.

If the monitor quits or is otherwise no longer available, respondent shall obtain approval from the Board for a new monitor within 30 days. If no new monitor is approved within 30 days, respondent shall not practice until a new monitor has been approved by the Board or its designee. During this period of non-practice, probation will be tolled and will not commence again until the period of non-practice is completed. Respondent shall pay all costs associated with this monitoring requirement. Failure to pay these costs shall be considered a violation of probation.

NOTIFICATION TO EMPLOYER Respondent shall provide each of his 3. or her employers, where respondent is providing psychological services, a copy of this Decision

and the Accusation or Statement of Issues before commencing employment. Notification to the respondent's current employer shall occur no later than the effective date of the Decision. Respondent shall submit, upon request by the Board or its designee, satisfactory evidence of compliance with this term of probation.

4. <u>PSYCHOTHERAPY</u> Within 180 days of the effective date of this Decision, a therapist shall be selected by the respondent for approval by the Board. The therapist shall 1) be a California-licensed psychologist with a clear and current license; 2) have no previous business, professional, personal, or other relationship with respondent; and 3) not be the same person as respondent's monitor. Respondent shall furnish a copy of this Decision to the therapist. Psychotherapy shall, at a minimum, consist of one hour per week over a period of 26 weeks after which it may continue or terminate upon the written recommendation of the therapist with approval by the Board or its designee. The Board or its designee may order a re-evaluation upon receipt of the therapist's recommendation.

Respondent shall execute a release authorizing the therapist to provide to the Board or its designee any information the Board deems appropriate, including quarterly reports of respondent's therapeutic progress. It shall be respondent's responsibility to assure that the required quarterly reports are filed by the therapist in a timely manner. If the therapist notifies the Board that the therapist believes the respondent cannot continue to safely render psychological services, respondent shall immediately cease accepting new patients and, in accordance with professional standards, shall appropriately refer/terminate existing patients within 30 days and shall not resume practice until a Board-appointed evaluator determines that respondent is again safe to practice. During this period of non-practice, probation shall be tolled and will not commence again until the period of non-practice is completed.

If, prior to the termination of probation, respondent is found not to be mentally fit to resume the practice of psychology without restrictions, the Board shall retain continuing jurisdiction over the respondent's license and the period of probation shall be extended until the Board or its designee determines that the respondent is mentally fit to resume the practice of psychology without restrictions.

5. <u>COURSEWORK</u> Respondent shall take and successfully complete not less than 12 hours each year of probation in the following areas: multiple role relationships.

Coursework must be preapproved by the Board or its designee. All coursework shall be taken at the graduate level at an accredited educational institution or by an approved continuing education provider. Classroom attendance is specifically required; correspondence or home study coursework shall not count toward meeting this requirement. The coursework must be in addition to any continuing education courses that may be required for license renewal.

Within 180 days of the effective date of this Decision, respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee for its prior approval a plan for meeting the educational requirements.

All costs of the coursework shall be paid by the respondent.

- 6. ETHICS COURSE Within 180 days of the effective date of this Decision, respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee for prior approval a course in laws and ethics as they relate to the practice of psychology. Said course must be successfully completed at an accredited educational institution or through a provider approved by the Board's accreditation agency for continuing education credit. Said course must be taken and completed within one year from the effective date of this Decision. The cost associated with the law and ethics course shall be paid by the respondent.
- 7. JURISPRUDENCE EXAMINATION Respondent shall take the California Jurisprudence and Professional Ethics Examination (CJPEE) within 180 days of the effective date of the decision. If respondent fails such examination, respondent shall immediately cease accepting new patients and, in accordance with professional standards, shall appropriately refer/terminate existing patients within 30 days and shall not resume practice until the re-examination has been successfully passed, as evidenced by written notice to respondent from the Board of its designee. During this period of non-practice, probation shall be tolled and will not commence again until the suspension is complete. It is respondent's responsibility to contact the Board in writing to make arrangements for such examination. Respondent shall pay the established examination fees.

8. <u>INVESTIGATION/ENFORCEMENT COST RECOVERY</u> Respondent shall pay the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$3,200 within the first two years of probation. Such costs shall be payable to the Board of Psychology and are to be paid regardless of whether the probation is tolled. Failure to pay such costs shall be considered a violation of probation.

The filing of bankruptcy by respondent shall not relieve respondent of the responsibility to repay investigation and enforcement costs.

9. <u>PROBATION COSTS</u> Respondent shall pay the costs associated with probation monitoring each and every year of probation. Such costs shall be payable to the Board of Psychology at the end of each fiscal year (June 30). Failure to pay such costs shall be considered a violation of probation.

The filing of bankruptcy by respondent shall not relieve respondent of the responsibility to repay probation monitoring costs.

- 10. OBEY ALL LAWS Respondent shall obey all federal, state, and local laws and all regulations governing the practice of psychology in California including the ethical guidelines of the American Psychological Association. A full and detailed account of any and all violations of law shall be reported by the respondent to the Board or its designee in writing within seventy-two (72) hours of occurrence.
- 11. QUARTERLY REPORTS Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Board or its designee, stating whether there has been compliance with all the conditions of probation. Quarterly reports attesting to non-practice status are to be submitted if probation is tolled.
- 12. PROBATION COMPLIANCE Respondent shall comply with the Board's probation program and shall, upon reasonable notice, report to the Board of Psychology probation monitor. Respondent shall contact the assigned probation monitor regarding any questions specific to the probation order. Respondent shall not have any unsolicited or unapproved contact with 1) complainants associated with the case; 2) Board members or members of its staff; or 3) persons serving the Board as expert evaluators.

- 13. <u>INTERVIEW WITH BOARD OR ITS DESIGNEE</u> Respondent shall appear in person for interviews with the Board or its designee upon request at various intervals and with reasonable notice.
- 14. <u>CHANGES OF EMPLOYMENT</u> Respondent shall notify the Board in writing, through the assigned probation monitor, of any and all changes of employment, location, and address within 30 days of such change.
- STATE NON-PRACTICE In the event respondent should leave California to reside or to practice outside the State, or for any reason should respondent stop practicing psychology in California, respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing within ten days of the dates of departure and return or the dates of non-practice within California. Non-practice is defined as any period of time exceeding thirty days in which respondent is not engaging in any activities defined in Sections 2902 and 2903 of the Business and Professions Code. During periods of non-practice, the probationary period is tolled and respondent's license or registration shall be placed on inactive status. The probationary period will not commence again until respondent activates his or her license and resumes practicing psychology in the state of California. However, the Board may require respondent to complete certain terms of probation that are not associated with active practice and respondent will be required to pay cost recovery and restitution as ordered.
- 16. <u>EMPLOYMENT AND SUPERVISION OF TRAINEES</u> If respondent is licensed as a psychologist, he shall not employ or supervise or apply to employ or supervise psychological assistants, interns or trainees during the course of this probation. Any such supervisorial relationship in existence on the effective date of this probation shall be terminated by respondent and/or the Board.
- 17. <u>FUTURE REGISTRATION OR LICENSURE</u> If respondent is registered as a psychological assistant or registered psychologist and subsequently obtains other psychological assistant or registered psychologist registrations or becomes licensed as a psychologist during the course of this probationary order, this Decision shall remain in full force

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and effect until the probationary period is successfully terminated. Future registrations or licensure shall not be approved, however, until respondent is currently in compliance with all of the terms and conditions of probation.

- 18. <u>VIOLATION OF PROBATION</u> If respondent violates probation in any respect, the Board may, after giving respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an Accusation or Petition to Revoke Probation is filed against respondent during probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final. No Petition for Modification or Termination of Probation shall be considered while there is an Accusation or Petition to Revoke Probation pending against respondent.
- 19. <u>COMPLETION OF PROBATION</u> Upon successful completion of probation, respondent's license shall be fully restored.

## **ACCEPTANCE**

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, O. Brandt Caudill, Jr.. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Psychologist License. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Psychology.

DATED: 9-2-03

TERRY LEE ARGAST, PH.D.

Respondent

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1	I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Terry Lee Argast, Ph.D. the terms and
2	conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary
3	Order. I approve its form and content.
4	DATED: 912(02).
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6	O. Boundt Candelly
7	O. BRANDT CAUDILL, JR. Attorney for Respondent
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9	<u>ENDORSEMENT</u>
10	The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully
11	submitted for consideration by the Board of Psychology of the Department of Consumer Affairs.
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13	DATED: 9.3.00
14	BILL LOCKYER, Attorney General of the State of California
15	of the State of Camornia
16	Cinds in 25
17	CINDY M. LOPEZ Deputy Attorney General
18	Attorneys for Complainant
19	Attorneys for Complaniant
20	DOJ Docket/Matter ID Number: 03598160-LA02 1199 argast-stip.wpd
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1	BILL LOCKYER, Attorney General						
2	1						
3	Deputy Attorney General, for RAJPAL DHILLON,						
4	Deputy Attorney General STATE OF COLUMN						
5	California Department of Justice 300 S. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013  BOARD OF CALIFORNIA SACRAMENTO LOS CALIFORNIA SACRAMENTO LO						
	Telephone: (213)897-2568						
6							
7	Attorneys for Complainant						
8	BEFORE THE						
9	BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY						
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA						
11							
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:  Case No. w233						
13	TERRY LEE ARGAST, Ph.D. 30011 Ivy Glenn, Suite 205						
14	Laguna Niguel, CA 92677  ACCUSATION						
15	Psychologist's License No. PSY 4396						
16	Respondent.						
17							
18	Complainant alleges:						
19	PARTIES						
20	1. Complainant Thomas O'Connor ("Complainant") brings this Accusation						
21	solely in his official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Psychology, Department of						
22	Consumer Affairs, State of California ("Board").						
23	2. On or about July 14, 1975, the Board issued Psychologist's License						
24	Number PSY 4396 to Terry L. Argast, Ph.D. ("Respondent"). Said license will expire on July 31,						
25	2003 unless renewed.						
26	<u>JURISDICTION</u>						
27	3. This Accusation is brought before the Board under the authority of the						
28	following sections of the Business and Professions Code ("Code").						

#### 4. Section 2960 of the Code states:

The board may refuse to issue any registration or license, or may issue a registration or license with terms and conditions, or may suspend or revoke the registration or license of any registrant or licensee if the applicant, registrant, or licensee has been guilty of unprofessional conduct. Unprofessional conduct shall include, but not be limited to:

" "

(i) Being grossly negligent in the practice of his or her profession.

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- (n) The commission of any dishonest, corrupt, or fraudulent act.
- (o) Any act of sexual abuse, or sexual relations with a patient or former patient within two years following termination of therapy, or sexual misconduct that is substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a psychologist or psychological assistant or registered psychologist.

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- (r) Repeated acts of negligence.
- 5. Section 125.3 of the Code states, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

#### 6.- Section 2964.6 of the Code states:

An administrative disciplinary decision that imposes terms of probation may include, among other things, a requirement that the licensee who is being placed on probation pay the monetary costs associated with monitoring the probation.

(Gross Negligence)

# FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

7. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2960, subsection

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(j), of the Code because he committed acts of gross negligence in his care, treatment, employment and supervision of patient P.D.1 occurring after June of 1995. The circumstances are as follows:

- In or about May 1984, patient P.D., a female patient who at the time was 31 years old, became a psychotherapy patient of Respondent, initially for conjoint therapy with P.D.'s husband, D.D. After four sessions, Respondent suggested that P.D. begin individual psychotherapy with him, which she did. During the course of individual therapy, which continued until December of 1991, Respondent made sexual advances toward P.D, including kissing her on the mouth and fondling her breasts in December of 1987, and in or about March of 1998, Respondent began having sexual intercourse with P.D.
- During the fall of 1991, P.D. was working as a psychological assistant for 9. a psychologist who was in the process of retiring from practice. Respondent agreed to accept P.D. as his psychological assistant, but informed P.D. that they would have to terminate their therapy relationship, which they did. Respondent did not refer P.D. to another therapist when he terminated her therapy, and he told P.D. she did not need ongoing counseling. However, Respondent continued to do hypnosis and age regression therapy with P.D. over the course of their association as psychologist and psychological assistant.
- 10. While supervising P.D., Respondent did not offer formal supervision, but supervision which became synonymous with "personal time" to be spent together on personal matters, including sexual relations.
- 1 <del>L</del>. In or about 1995, Respondent approached P.D. about doing some bookkeeping work for his corporation and the Southern California Society of Ericksonian Psychotherapy and Hypnosis ("the Society"). Respondent told the patient that he would pay her \$100 per month. The job took 25 to 30 hours per week, so P.D. told Respondent she needed more pay. Respondent raised her compensation to \$10 per hour, but he told P.D. he didn't think her

The names of patients are not revealed here to protect their privacy rights. Respondent will be provided with patient names upon receipt of his written request for discovery.

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work for his corporation should take more than an hour, and he told her he would pay her \$300 for the work for the Society. He also agreed to pay her malpractice insurance. Although P.D. did not feel that this arrangement fairly compensated her, she continued to perform the bookkeeping work from 1995 through and including 1997. P.D. thereafter also continued to feel inadequately compensated for her efforts. When she discussed this with Respondent, Respondent told her he couldn't pay her any more, but suggested that P.D. could handle disability cases. Respondent then allowed P.D. to perform disability testing on cases while she was working out of an office in Central California, even though Respondent was in Southern California and could not supervise P.D.'s work.

- On or about May 17, 1999, P.D. sent a message to Respondent by 12. electronic mail (i.e., e-mail) which was intercepted by Respondent's wife. This resulted in Respondent's wife discovering the affair between Respondent and P.D. Respondent's wife also phoned P.D.'s husband and informed him of the affair. As a result, Respondent told P.D. that she would have to terminate therapy with her patients within the next month. P.D. terminated therapy with her patients on or about December 22, 1999, and ended her formal psychological internship with Respondent on or about January 31, 2000.
- 13. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2960, subsection (j), of the Code for committing acts of gross negligence in the following care, treatment. employment and supervision of P.D. occurring after June of 1995:
- (a) By engaging in sexual relations with P.D. while supervising her as his psychological assistant;
- (b) By not compensating P.D. at a fair rate for the amount of work she performed for him, and by engaging in a sexual relationship which highly influenced her participation in a supervisory internship and negatively affected her ability to participate equally in the internship;
- By failing to regularly supervise P.D.'s work, which includes allowing (c) P.D. to perform disability evaluations from an office in Central California; and
  - (d) By continuing to perform hypnosis and age regression treatment on P.D.

supervision of patient P.D. occurring after June of 1995. The circumstances are as follows:

in the internship. 2 3 PRAYER WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein 4 alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Psychology issue a decision: 5 Revoking or suspending Psychologist's License Number PSY 4396, 6 (a) issued to Terry Lee Argast, Ph.D.; 8 Ordering Terry Lee Argast, Ph.D. to pay the Board of Psychology the (b) reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, and, if placed on probation, the costs of probation monitoring; 10 Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper. 11 (c) 12 DATE: July 9, 2002 13 **Executive Officer** 14 Board of Psychology Department of Consumer Affairs 15 State of California Complainant 16 17 JD 6/21/02 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

# **DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY CERTIFIED MAIL**

In the Matter of the Accusation filed Against:

# Terry Lee Argast, Ph.D.

No.: W233

I, the undersigned, declare that I am over 18 years of age and not a party to the within cause; my business address is 1422 Howe Avenue, Ste. 22 Sacramento, California 95825. I served a true copy of the attached:

# DECISION AND ORDER

by mail on each of the following, by placing same in an envelope (or envelopes) addressed (respectively) as follows:

## NAME AND ADDRESS

CERT NO.

Terry Lee Argast, Ph.D. 30011 lvy Glen, Ste. 205 Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

7002 0860 0004 1219 6538

O. Brandt Caudill, Jr. Callahan, McCune & Willis LLP 111 Fashion Lane Tustin, CA 92780-3397

Cindy Lopez
Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
300 S. Spring Street, Ste. 1702
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Each said envelope was then on, <u>February 2, 2004</u>, sealed and deposited in the United States mail at Sacramento, California, the county in which I am employed, as certified mail, with the postage thereon fully prepaid, and return receipt requested.

Executed on, <u>February 2, 2004</u>, at Sacramento, California. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

DECLARANT Kathi Burns

**Enforcement Coordinator** 

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